

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 021044Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 477

UNCLAS FREETOWN 2363

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP SL

SUBJECT: POWER GENERATION

REF: A. STATE 256173 B. FREETOWN'S A-78 OF OCTOBER 3, 1974

THIS RESPONSE UPDATES AND ELABORATES ON MORE COMPREHENSIVE
REPORT PROVIDED IN REF B.

1. GOSL NOW DEFINITELY PLANS LET TENDER FOR 10MW GENERATOR
DIESEL GENERATOR IN NEAR FUTURE. WORLD BANK REPORTEDLY WAS
IN FREETOWN LAST WEEK TO INFORM GOSL THAT BANK MOVING ON TO
DETAILED COST STUDY OF BUMBNUNA HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT. CHINESE
PROVIDING EQUIPMENT FOR 3.5 MG HYDRO MINI SYSTEM WHICH THEY
ARE BULDING ASASSISTANCE PROJECT.

2. CAPACITY OF PRESENT SYSTEM GIVEN ON PAGE 3 OF REF B.
WITH EXCEPTION OF 4.2 MW STEAM GENERATOR AND 2.4 MW HYDRO
STATION, BOTH IN SLEC WESTERN AREA SYSTEM, EMBASSY BELIEVES
ALL SYSTEMS DIESEL.

3. SEE PAGE 4 REF B. MINING DEMAND GROWTH WHICH IS NOT
INCLUDED IN THIS TABLE, IS FORECAST AT 2 PER CENT P.A. OVER
NEXT FIVE YEARS BUT COULD JUMP CONSIDERABLY WHEN/IF PROPOSED
NEW IRON ORE AND BAUXITE VENTURES COME ON STREAM.

4. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE IN PAST FUNDED BY
WORLD BANK WHICH IS ALSO MOST PROMISING SOURCE OF MONEY
FOR BUMBUNA PROJECT. GOSL HAS HOWEVER OFTEN RESORTED
TO SUPPLIER CREDIT. AS FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS, SLEC IS
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NOT ABLE TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT FROM INTERNAL INCOME:

ITEM	1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
(IN LE THOUSAND, LE 1 EQUALS \$1.20)					
GROSS REVENUE FROM					
SALE OF ELECTRICITY	2,731	3,131	3,309	3,297	3,227
OTHER REVENUES	121	126	117	89	150
TOTAL REVENUES	2,852	3,257	3,426	3,386	3,677
OPERATING EXPENSES,					
MAINTENANCE, GENERAL					
AND ADMINISTRATIVE					
OVERHEADS	2,418	2,596	2,951	3,231	3,790
NET REVENUES	434	661	475	155	(113) PLUS
LESS DEBT SERVICES	295	312	401	452	570
NET REVENUE AFTER					
DEBT SERVICE	139	349	74	(297)	(638)
PLUS () INDICATES DEFICIT					

5. SYSTEM DESIGNED TO BRITISH STANDARDS ALTHOUGH LAST THREE 6.6 MW DIESEL GENERATORS PURCHASED WERE MADE IN WEST GERMANY.

6. 11KV TRANSMISSION, 3.5KV SUBTRANSMISSION, 433 VOLTS THREE PHASE AND 240 VOLT ONE PHASE FOR DISTRIBUTION.

7. NO INTEGRATED GRID SYSTEM.

8. DIESEL FUEL, WHICH PROCESSED FROM NIGERIAN CRUDE IN LOCAL REFINERY, AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE SUPPLY AT \$0.94/IMPERIAL GAL. DIESEL FUEL PROVIDED TO SLEC FREE TO EXCISE DUTY AT \$0.66/IMPERIAL GAL LPG, LNG NOT AVAILABLE EXCEPT IN VERY SMALL QUANTITIES

9. CONSULTANTS INCLUDE MOTOR COLUMBUS OF BASEL SWITZERLAND AND J.H. GRIFFITHS OF UK, AND UNDP HYDROLOGISTS LISTED IN REF B. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING PUBLICATION: SLEC ANNUAL REPORTS 1965-1973 (FROM SLEC) NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FROM GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT FREETOWN) STRENGTHENING OF THE SLEC (FROM UNDP AND WORLD BANK; MAY NOT BE PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE) SULLIVAN UNCLASSIFIED

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